



Tla'amin Cultural Property unearthed at tisk^wat will be protected by new Protocol with B.C.

July 9, 2024

On June 28th the Province of B.C. and Tla'amin Nation signed qat^θ x^wε[?]ε^θot tisk^wat (planning together for tisk^wat) protocol which describes how the parties will work together to protect Tla'amin Cultural Property unearthed at the tiskwat mill site earlier this year.

The protocol was created for the mill site during provincially regulated environmental investigation processes conducted by Catalyst-Paper Excellence, the current site owner.

“It is powerful to see and to hold these thousands year old cultural treasures,” said Hegus John Hackett. “The recent discoveries at tisk^wat reaffirm and confirm what our ancestors have always said – tisk^wat was our home until very recently.”

The Catalyst tisk^wat mill site is currently subject to the site closure process in accordance with the Environmental Management Act. The environmental investigation process was triggered by the submission of the Site disclosure statement, a requirement for Catalyst-Paper Excellence's sale of the property.

qat^θ x^wε[?]ε^θot tisk^wat will help Tla'amin protect its cultural heritage at the site by ensuring the Nation's voice in archaeological processes and cultural asset management decisions affecting Tla'amin artifacts.

Specifically, B.C. commits to a stronger stewardship role for Tla'amin Nation including a joint review process with the Tla'amin Nation environmental and archeological permits; encouraging the employment of Tla'amin cultural and heritage and environmental technicians; and encouraging the inclusion of Tla'amin ethnographic, ethnohistorical and traditional land use and stewardship knowledge in all permit and process reviews.

The qat^θ x^wε[?]ε^θot tisk^wat Protocol builds on and breathes life into the [yixmetstēm tisk^wat \(we are going to take care of tisk^wat\) MOU](#). B.C. and Tla'amin Nation developed the tiskwat MOU to support Tla'amin Nation's environmental stewardship objectives at the tiskwat mill site.

Media

Tla'amin Nation
media@tn-bc.ca
778-834-7934

Background

The tiskwat mill site forms part of Tla'amin Nation's former tiskwat settlement. The Tla'amin were forcibly removed from the site in the late 1800s to make way for the pulp mill and hydroelectric dam.

The dam eradicated one of the richest salmon runs on the south coast of B.C., upon which the Tla'amin people relied.

The site is subject to a land claim negotiation with the federal government, and it holds high archaeological and cultural value to the Nation.

The yixmetštəm tisk^wat (we are going to take care of tiskwat) memorandum of understanding was signed on October 27th, 2023, to chart a path for responsible site stewardship, intergovernmental cooperation and economic reconciliation, and to safeguard the future of tisk^wat and prevent abandonment of the property.

The qat^θ x^wεʔεθot tisk^wat (planning together for tiskwat) protocol builds upon this MOU to care for recent archaeological discoveries at the mill site. The Protocol details how the two governments will collaborate on environmental and heritage protection processes and decision-making at the tiskwat mill site.